

I. Accept It - Eccl. 7:11-14

- Rea 1. Again recommends “wisdom” - gives a few “wisdom is like” statements (**verse 11**)
- A. Like an inheritance
2. Both
- A. Passed from one generation to another
 - B. Both are valuable
- Rea C. We might use the word “legacy”
3. Both provide a shelter (**verse 12**)
- protected from the sun’s rays
- Rea 4. Wisdom does not take away life’s problems... but it sure helps to handle them!
5. It preserves those who have it
- Rea 6. Note that in verse 12 wisdom and knowledge are somewhat equated
7. A rhetorical question - who can straighten what God has crooked? (**Verse 13**)
- inexplicable, not wicked or corrupt
- Rea -God does not always lead in a straight line!
8. So be happy (**verse 14**)
- even when life is “crooked”
- Rea -note that times “good” and “bad” - he is not afraid to call a bad time just that!
- Rea -so foolish and shallow to call bad times... “just the way you look at it”
- Rea -he also says that God has made both... - which doesn’t quite fit our theology
9. We cannot know the future but we have God
- Rea 10. In this context we have a “shelter” in wisdom for these “crooked” times
- Rea **Ideas and Questions:**
- 1. Sunday you will be teaching people who’ve dealt with or ARE dealing with “crooked” times... so don’t give easy answers
 - 2. You have a tool (wisdom) that will help you deal with the hardness/ harshness of life
 - 3. It is comforting to know that others have dealt with these same issues - they did not
- just “crop up” in 2021

II. Find Balance - Eccl. 7:15-18

1. I’ve seen both - justice and injustice (**verse 15**)
- Rea -a greater injustice than that which currently fills our television
- Rea -verse 15 he simply relates as a witness what he’s seen
2. At Deuteronomy 5:33 and Exodus 20:12 we see that righteousness prolongs life... that is the background and the issue (theological) that he ponders
3. Don’t be: (**verses 16-7**)
- otherwise
 - overrighteous
 - overwicked
4. A great example is given on page 117 - a child who sees all this and does not understand the injustice of the wicked prospering
5. Aim for a balance
6. Don’t so engage yourself that you die before your time (**17**)

- Rea -don't allow this to overwork you/ don't worry so much about it
7. Grasp them both - avoid extremes (**verse 18**)
- Rea -to fall down on either extreme shows you don't understand life's complexity, that you don't believe that the righteous are better off, and will be rewarded.
- Rea -consider the life of Joseph. He had great periods of his life that was spent in a dungeon, even though he did the right things. During those periods he could've thrown up his hands and said... it's not worth. On the other end of things, he could have said... well God loves me best, look at how I've been rewarded for my righteousness. That arrogance is not fitting for a believer... but many live there.
8. We ought repent of evil, but we also ought repent of the wrong reasons for doing right.
9. Fearing God means avoiding both extremes
- Rea -fearing God helps you live with balance - and that is wise
- Rea **Ideas and Questions:**
1. Begin with the fear of the Lord - it is the "beginning of wisdom"
 2. The Pharisees see the law and keeping it as the thing
-“overrighteous?”
 3. In our day “overwicked” are saying... eat, drink and be merry
 4. Paul recommended “moderation in all things” - same idea

III. Acknowledge Sin - Eccl. 7:19-22

1. Wisdom is powerful - more so than ten rulers (**verse 19**)
- Rea -in context... the principle of “balance” is wise
2. There is none so righteous that he does not sin (**verse 20**)
-all have sinned and come short of the glory of God
 3. Don't listen to counsel from every person (**verse 21**)
- Rea -very wise in our day because everyone has “an answer” ...and puts it on Facebook
- Rea 4. The example given is listening to your servant curse you
-let it go - after all this is what subordinates do... curse their masters
-so... don't take this to heart
5. Another example - you yourself have cursed others (**verse 22**)
- Rea -it is wise to not take it to heart - after all, all have sinned (verse 20)
- Rea **Ideas and Questions:**
1. Sin is in all of us... you shouldn't expect that others live a sinless life... after all you don't
 2. This is wisdom,... to take these things with a grain of salt - this passage (19-21) begins (verse 19) with wisdom... so all these verses are about what is wise
 3. The passage ends with a look at our own “heart” (verse 22) - he is not saying its okay but simply realizing this the “human” condition